

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 12

OCTOBER 1962



L to R: Mrs. W. E. Wisseman, Mrs. Laurence T. Schoen, Miss Mildred Walker, Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, Mrs. F. C. Lester, Mrs. Berta McClintock, Mrs. Robert W. Reneker, and Miss Lillian Gregory.

Southern Union College Holds Dedication Services For McClintock Library Building

The McClintock Library of The Southern Union College was dedicated at a special service held on the campus on Friday, September 21, 1962.

Present for the observance was Mrs. Berta McClintock, first full-time Executive Secretary of the National Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, in whose honor the beautiful and efficient new library building is named.

The McClintock Library, nestled against the side of a hill under towering trees on the campus, was made possible through The Women's Gift of the National Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Women. \$50,000 was designated for this purpose.

A generous gift from the West Point Manufacturing Company, West Point, Ga., made possible the new furnishings for the building.

Representing the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women at the dedication were Mrs. Robert W. Reneker, Chicago, Ill., the national pre-

sident; Mrs. W. E. Wisseman, Greensboro, N. C., and Mrs. Laurence T. Schoen, Wells, Minn., members of the Exesutive Board of the National Fellowship; and the following members of the staff: Miss Lillian S. Gregory, executive secretary, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mildred O. Walker, administrative assistant, Chicago, Ill.; and Mrs. F. C. Lester, High Point, N. C., field secretary.

Mrs. Ernest Albert Yarrow Jr., of Winnetka, Ill., daughter of Mrs. McClintock, was present for the dedication service.

In the absence of Miss Dora C. Brackin, president of the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Vernon Carter of Wadley represented the women of the area.

Mr. Tap Hanson, director of industrial and public relations for the concern, brought greetings from the West Point Mfg. Co. The library is now in full use.

Church Council Sponsors Fund For Burned Churches

The Georgia Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches recently announced jointly that they will welcome gifts to help build new churches for Negro congregations in Georgia whose churches were damaged or destroyed by recent burnings.

Contributions for this purpose are invited from all concerned Christians in all parts of the country, said Dr. Roy G. Ross, Council general secretary, in making the announcement.

The Rev. Edward A. Driscoll, a minister of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, is the executive secretary of the Georgia Council of Churches.

The gifts will be transmitted to the affected congregations with utmost speed so that reconstruction work can be planned and completed without delay.

"While obviously carried out by hoodlum elements which unhappily exist not only in Georgia but in all states, the burning of these Negro churches is not only a flagrant violation of human rights, it is an act of blasphemy," Dr. Ross declared.

"In addition to love and respect for God, men have responsibility to love each other and to respect each other's God-given rights. It is but a small step from intimidating one group of persons to intimidation of all," he said.

"We wish to commend all those in Georgia and other parts of the South who are raising funds to rebuild the churches. We invite Christians in all parts of the country to join in these efforts to restore to these congregations their houses of worship. By so doing every Christian will assert his conviction that violence and intolerance have no place in our democratic society," he said.

Gifts may be sent to the Georgia Council of Churches, 63 Auburn Ave., N. E., Atlanta 3, Ga. Each should be designated as a gift to the Negro Church Restoration Fund.

Christian Education Conference At Purdue

Someone at Purdue asked the perplexing question, "What can I take back home from this meeting? What can I say I learned?" Another answered, "It's not that we learned something — but that something happened to us at Purdue."

All of us came away with this same feeling: something did happen to us. For many of us it was discovering how very important persons are; what can happen when we accept one another as children of God, to be loved and taken seriously. For others it was the realization of the importance of relationships — that the Gospel is shared through relationships even more than through words.

While we were there we thought together of what the church really is — a household of power, a community of faith. We experienced those things which can make a group of very different persons into a small community — willing to share ideas, be concerned for each other, help each other, express freely doubts and beliefs. We came home hoping to share with our own churches the joy which we know can come from such an experience, and determined to lead our church in becoming such a group. The biennial theme can be a most helpful tool to church's self-discovery of what its mission is to be, if what happened to us at Purdue in a very short time is any example.

The Biennial Theme: "The Church — a Learning and Witnessing Community" — can be used throughout this year and next in many groups in the church. Two books are available for reading and study: *The Educational Mission of the Church* by Roger Shinn, and *The Household of Power* by Oliver Powell. Also prepared is a *Handbook for Using the Biennial Emphasis in the Local Church*. Having seen and heard both Roger Shinn and Oliver Powell at Purdue, all of us are anxious to share these books and more of their ideas with those in our own churches.

I am happy to say that there were eight attending from the Southeast Convention. Three of these served as leaders in the conference. All of us did learn something through the attendance of study groups, viewing of the latest audio-visuals, and visiting of many displays. Each of us learned more about the area which particularly concerned us, such as: nursery teaching, being a

1963 Youth Week Dates January 27 - February 3

"To Fill the Emptiness" has been selected as the theme for Youth Week 1963, from January 27 through February 3. This twentieth annual observance, emphasizing youth work and unity in Christ, is a program of the denomination working together through the United Christian Youth Movement. Specific purposes of Youth Week are: (1) to provide an occasion when the whole church might highlight the role and contribution of young people to the life and witness of the Christian community; (2) to encourage young people themselves to focus more sharply their attention and activity on an emphasis of special concern to them in their growth in the Christian life; and (3) to make opportunity for the youth of the churches to give expression to their awareness of the call to Christian unity and seek after means of more adequately fulfilling Christ's prayer that all might be one.

Youth Week observance may include Sunday services of worship and various other meetings and projects during the week for both church and community. The local church observance is an opportunity for the young people to interpret the theme, youth concerns and the United Christian Youth Movement to the congregation. The community observance should provide an opportunity for young people and adults in our churches to join together in exploration of the faith and life to which we have been called. It should provide the basis of an ongoing experience in growth, understanding, commitment and practice of Christian discipleship.

Materials for the observance of Youth Week are now available. A complete Youth Week packet (75c) is available from the Youth Department, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York. We suggest that youth groups send for their packets immediately so as to make adequate plans for local and community observances, Jan. 27-February 3, 1963, is closer than you think!

church school superintendent; youth work, using the Bible with adults, and others. I hope we are each equipped to better perform our special task in our own church.

Shirley N. Berry
Southeast Convention
Christian Education
Committee Chairman

New Filmstrips Available From Convention Office

Two recently acquired filmstrips, with reading script, are available from the Southeast Convention office, for return postage only:

TEACHING IN KINDERGARTEN seeks to present vividly the capabilities, interests and needs of four-and-five-year-olds to help viewers understand what church school experience can help these active, curious, eager youngsters grow as Christian persons individually and as a group; to show how these experiences within the kindergarten church school group may enable a child to grow in becoming a whole person, in his relationships with others, and in relation to God. Somewhat like a "laboratory school", this filmstrip provides opportunities for parents and teachers to observe experienced teachers working with four-and-five-year-olds, and is designed for use in leadership workshops, laboratory schools, workers' conferences, and parent-teacher meetings. It is particularly helpful in making vivid the concepts of Christian education for kindergarten children presented in the *Kindergarten Manual* by Hazel Schoonmaker and the six kindergarten courses of the United Church curriculum. Specific suggestions for use are included in the booklet of which the reading script is a portion.

THE COVENANT (Part I is now available; Part II will come later) is a color filmstrip, with reading script which throws light on questions such as, "What is it I am agreeing to when I enter into the covenant? Why do we commit ourselves to the covenant again and again? How did the covenant begin?" Regarding "the covenant" essentially as a bond between God and man and between man and man, the body of the filmstrip directs our attention to the movement through history in which the covenant is engaged in, broken and rebroken by the people of God and finally remade by God himself in Jesus Christ.

"What today we are as members of the New Israel is intimately bound up with this story, for it is our story, the tale of our forefathers in Israel and our fathers in the Christian church." With the script are suggestions for using the filmstrip, which is particularly helpful for churches using either the Church and Home Series or Pilgrim Series.

Churches Urged Support Share Our Surplus Fund

The 1962-63 Share Our Surplus program will be launched at the annual National Thanksgiving Service in Washington, D. C., on Sunday, November 18.

Either on that Sunday or some other convenient Sunday during the month of November, churches all over the country will receive offerings for Share Our Surplus.

The SOS offers a tremendous bargain for concerned churches. More than 300 pounds of food are distributed overseas for every dollar contributed. Gifts to SOS literally reach the ends of the earth with their message of Christian concern for our fellow men.

The SOS Program is the cooperative endeavor of the major Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions to provide help for as many as possible of the world's hungry and undernourished.

SOS Foods are contributed by the United States Government from its surplus stocks held by the Commodity Credit Corporation. In addition, foods required in overseas feeding programs but not available from surplus supplies, are purchased.

The contributions of American churchgoers pay for the distribution costs and for the cost of administration and transportation not provided by the government of the United States or the governments of recipient countries.

Last year 333,893,961 pounds of SOS foods were distributed to more than ten million persons overseas. Precious cargoes of life-sustaining foods left American ports at the rate of six shipments a day.

The needs of peoples in other parts of the world are determined by National Christian Councils or other recognized on-the-spot inter-church bodies, which handle the distribution.

The churches of the Southeast Convention are urged to participate in the Share Our Surplus Program. The need is great. Let us be generous.

United Church Ministers Retreat November 26-28

The annual United Church Ministers Retreat will be held November 26-28 at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information concerning registration and cost will soon be sent to the ministers of the Southeast Convention.

Lay Leaders Urged Attend Special November Meeting

The Council of Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ will sponsor a one-day meeting at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., on Saturday, November 10, to discuss the program of the Council.

To this meeting should come the ministers and the officers of men's and women's groups in local churches, as well as the officers of association, conference and convention fellowship groups.

Information concerning the meeting will be sent to the ministers and the churches of the Southeast Convention in the near future.

Representatives from the churches of the Southeast Convention, the Congregational Christian Convention of the South (Negro), and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in the area will be present.

The tentative program calls for registration at 9 a. m. and adjournment by 4:45 p. m.

Miss Lillian Gregory, executive secretary of the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women and on the staff of the Council for Lay Life and Work, will be the featured resource leader. Lay leaders from the area will also be on the program.

Youth P & T Conference Planned For Holidays

In response to many requests by our young people, the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship officers and a sub-committee of the SEC Christian Education Committee, have set up a PLANNING AND TRAINING CONFERENCE for local, district and convention youth officers and advisors.

The P. and T. Conference is to be held beginning Thursday, December 27, at 1:00 P. M., and closing with lunch on Saturday, December 29. Site of the Conference is the Southern Union College campus. Designed particularly for officers and advisors, help will be offered in worship, program, and recreation planning, as well as resource material being made available.

Further details will be forthcoming soon regarding rates and specific program. But for the time being, save the dates and save some money for what plans to be a really helpful experience toward a more meaningful youth ministry.



Rev. Arthur Von Gruenigen Speaks At Fall Meetings

The Rev. Arthur A. Von Gruenigen, who has been appointed by the United Church Board for World Ministries to serve as an educational missionary in India, was the guest speaker at the annual fall association and conference meetings of the Southeast Convention.

Mr. Von Gruenigen served from 1951 to 1957 in India under the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

He was minister of St. John's United Church of Christ in Chicago from 1957 until early in 1962 when he enrolled for study at the Missionary Orientation Center at Stony Point, New York. Earlier he had served pastorates at Fort Seneca and Shiloh, Ohio, for three years.

A native of Abilene, Kansas, Mr. Von Gruenigen received his A. B. from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, in 1944. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Mission House Seminary, Plymouth, Wis., in 1947, and a year later received a Master's degree at Princeton.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Gruenigen (she is the former Dolores L. Block and a registered nurse) have three children, Heidi, 5, Paul, 4, and John, 3. Mrs. Von Gruenigen received her nurse's training at Evangelical Hospital in Chicago and also studied at Illinois Institute of Technology and Moody Bible Institute.

Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, held its fall retreat on Sunday, September 30, on Signal Mountain at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Farmer.

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Superintendent's Corner

The events of recent weeks have saddened the hearts of concerned church people all over the South.

Churches have been burned in Georgia. Negro congregations worshipped in these churches, but they were God's churches. What manner of people engage in and support the burning of churches?

Riots in Mississippi have resulted in two deaths and countless injuries. The consequences of the riots will plague Mississippi for years to come. What possible justification can there be for mob action against lawful authority in a democracy?

By now it should be apparent to church people all over the south that political leaders who promise that racial segregation can be maintained and that they will see that it is maintained by whatever means prove necessary, are both irresponsible and dangerous. The course they proclaim leads but to disaster. It cannot succeed.

It is past time for the church people of the south to take stock of the situation and to make their convictions and their voices heard. There must be a stop to riots and violent demonstrations. Those who make public statements that hold false hopes before the people and fan the fires of emotion and prejudice to fever heat must be challenged.

The church people of the south must stand clearly and forthrightly for the honest facing of the issues. Now is the time to support and urge efforts to work out peaceful and just solutions to the problems involved.

The voice of the church is desperately needed in our southland today. We, as Christians, must raise our voices before it is too late. This we must do in the name of Jesus Christ.



The Church Builders Club

The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention has taken the Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, as its current project.

In the past the Church Builders Club has given assistance to the Douglas, Georgia, the Tifton, Georgia, and the Brookmead, Nashville, Tenn., churches.

The annual meeting of the Church Builders Club, which was held last spring in connection with the annual meeting of the convention, designated July as Church Builders Club Month.

Because many churches found the summer months not to be a good time to hold such an observance, it now is suggested that those churches choose a Sunday in October or November and seek to secure memberships in the club.

The plan of the club is relatively simple. "Membership in this club is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute \$5.00 or more for each new church project approved by the governing body or membership of the Club . . . The maximum number of projects to be approved for one calendar year shall be two (2)."

The list of members secured or renewed should be sent to the Southeast Convention office, along with the check covering the memberships. The check should be made payable to "The Church Builders Club."

Organizations and groups in the churches as well as individuals can join the Church Builders Club.

The Russell Woods Church

The Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, was organized in 1957 by a group of approximately 25 interested persons.

With Rev. J. N. Rumph, a member of the group, serving as acting pastor, the young church secured land and soon erected a small building that could be used for worship and Sunday School.

In October of 1958 Rev. Herbert Long was called as the first full-time minister of the congregation. Under his leadership plans for expansion on the original site were developed. Then came the news that a new highway probably would run through the church property. The news proved correct.

Mr. Long resigned as minister in 1960 in order to continue his theological education at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

The church then called its present pastor, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn. During the years the church has grown to a membership of approximately 100.

The church has now relocated in the Russell Woods Sub-Division of Phenix City not far from its previous site. The new building is being constructed on a lot 300 by 135 feet and the church has a two-year option on an additional lot 135 by 100 feet.

Already in use is the educational unit. Plans call for the future construction of the church auditorium and additional facilities.

The educational unit, which is pictured above, contains eight Sunday School rooms, two rest rooms, and a fellowship hall. The value of the building is set at \$40,000. Because of contributed labor the actual cost will be around \$25,000.

People . . .



North Alabama Association

Pictured above are, from left to right, Rev. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large, Rev. Homer Barnes, vice-moderator, Rev. Raymond Berry, chairman, Committee on Ministry, Rev. Roger Whitley, moderator, Mr. John Heamons, representative to the Southeast Convention Board of Directors, and Mrs. Leila Terry, chairman of the Committee on Christian Education.

They were elected to these offices at the annual meeting of the North Alabama Association held on Saturday, September 29, at Old Liberty Church, Town Creek, Alabama.

The little boy in the picture is Newton, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Robertson of Arley, Alabama.

In the absence of the moderator, Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, who resigned as minister of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, to go to the Congregational Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, the vice-moderator, Rev. Roger Whitley, presided over the sessions. The Rev. Richard Waugh was the host pastor.

The Christian Education Committee of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference met at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., on October 1.



Pictured above at the N. Ala. Assc. are Mr. M. N. Robertson and Mr. V. A. Robertson of Arley, Alabama.

Churches . . .

HERE AND THERE

REV. H. B. GEBHARDT

Word recently was received in the convention office of the death of Rev. H. B. Gebhardt, retired minister living in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Mr. Gebhardt had served churches of our fellowship in Alabama and Florida. He is survived by his wife.

* * * *

HARVEST DAY

The East Alabama Association will observe Harvest Day for Southern Union College on Sunday, October 28. The college choir will present a musical program at 2:30 p. m. CST at the college. Members of the churches are urged to attend and to bring gifts of money and foodstuffs.

* * * *

The Board of Directors of the Convention met at Atlanta on September 11. The Christian Education Committee met on the previous day.

* * * *

The Committee on Reorganization and Realignment, composed of representatives of the South Indiana Synod, the Southeast Convention and the Convention of the South, met at Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, on September 12 to discuss the formation of a United Church Conference in the southeast area of the United Church.

* * * *

DR. BEN M. HERBSTER

Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church, met with the conference, convention, and synod executives of the Southern Synod, Southern Convention, Convention of the South, Florida Conference, and the Southeast Convention at Central Church, Atlanta, on September 18-19.

* * * *

Rev. William H. Shelton was installed as minister of the Lowell Church, Roanoke, Alabama, at services held on Sunday afternoon, September 16.

* * * *

The new home address of Rev. and Mrs. Clarence W. Baldwin is:

2836 Fifth Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas

* * * *

Dr. Arthur D. Gray has resigned as president of Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, to become minister of the Park Manor Congregational Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

Events . . .



Pictured above are Mrs. Noel Allen, president of the East Alabama Women's Fellowship, and Rev. Wallace Roberts, host pastor, at the meeting of the Fellowship at Rock Stand Church, Sunday, September 23.

Andalusia First Church Lay Fellowships Active

The Ladies' Missionary Society of the First Congregational Christian Church, Andalusia, Alabama, has recently held two hamburger suppers for the entire church membership and friends. These suppers had a two-fold purpose—one to raise some money for the Society's treasury and the other to create a more united feeling of good fellowship and relaxation for the special church meetings that followed each supper.

The Men's Fellowship, although not too many in number, has been going strong recently. Some of the projects that are being worked on now are: No. 1 — Collect and maintain food reserve for the needy, and No. 2 — Fill and grade washed-out areas in church lawn, and No. 3 — Rearrange the parking area in the church yard.

A. E. Adams, Reporter

Pictured below are Mrs. Berta McClintock and her daughter, Mrs. Ernest A. Yarrow Jr., standing in front of the dedication plaque at the new library building at Southern Union College.



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**Thank you God
for food**